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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CR, FR, MOPS, PEPR
SUBJ: GOF STATEMENT ON EVENTS IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A DECLARATION ISSUED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE REGULAR WEDNESDAY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING. (UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION)
BEGIN TEXT:
OF THE FOUR REVERSALS OF DICTATORIAL GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY, IN UGANDA, NICARAGUA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND CENTRAL AFRICA, AND WHICH IN THE FIRST THREE CASES INVOLVED THOUSANDS OF DEATHS, ONLY THE CHANGE OF REGIME IN CENTRAL AFRICA HAS BEEN EFFECTED WITHOUT A DROP OF BLOOD BEING SPILLED.

THE REACTION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN POPULATION WAS BEEN FAVORABLE, NOT ONLY IN BANGUI WHERE THE NEW ARRIVALS HAVE BEEN GREETED AS LIBERATORS, BUT IN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WHERE NO TROUBLE HAS BEEN NOTED.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE ROLE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT? FROM THE MOMENT WHEN THE REPRESSIVE VIOLENCE IN BANGUI WAS UNLEASHED AGAINST THE POPULATION IN
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JANUARY 1979, THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DECIDED THAT

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THESE ACTS CONTRARY TO HUMAN RIGHTS EXCLUDED SUPPORT OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REGIME.

BUT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE FACTS BE ESTABLISHED AND THAT JUDGMENT ON THOSE RESPONSIBLE BE MADE BY AFRICANS THEMSELVES. THAT IS WHY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC PROPOSED AT THE FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE IN KIGALI THE FORMATION OF AN INVESTIGATORY COMMISSION COMPOSED EXCLUSIVELY OF AFRICAN MAGISTRATES. HE DECLARED THAT THE GOVERNMENT "WOULD DRAW ALL THE CONSEQUENCES" FROM THE CONCLUSIONS OF THE COMMISSION. THESE WERE PUBLISHED AUGUST 16, 1979. THEY ESTABLISHED THE REALITY OF THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED. ALL FRENCH AID WAS THUS SUSPENDED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF FOOD AND HUMANITARIAN AID.

TO THE ANGUISHED APPEALS ADDRESSED BY THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE CAR, THE PRIME MINISTER IN POWER, AND OTHER RESPONSIBLE CENTRAL AFRICANS TO LIBERATE THEIR COUNTRY FROM THE OPPRESSION FROM WHICH IT SUFFERED, THE GOVERNMENT REPLIED THAT FRANCE WAS READY TO REPLY TO REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE AS SOON AS THEY WERE EXPRESSED IN PLACE BY THOSE QUALIFIED, WITHOUT THE FALLEN SOVEREIGN, TO REPRESENT CENTRAL AFRICA.

THAT IS WHAT WAS DONE AND WHAT MADE POSSIBLE -- AFTER THE ELIMINATION OF THE CONDEMNED REGIME -- PUTTING IN PLACE A NEW REGIME WHICH HAS THE HEAVY TASK OF RECONSTRUCTING THE CAR.

IN THIS TASK THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF CENTRAL
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AFRICA -- A WORTHY, PEACEFUL AND HARD-WORKING PEOPLE -- WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON THE ACTIVE AND FRIENDLY SUPPORT OF FRANCE. THAT IS WHY AID AND COOPERATION ARE GOING TO BE QUICKLY RESTORED.

IT IS THE HONOR OF THOSE WHO ACTED IN THE CAR TO HAVE ELIMINATED TYRANNY WITHOUT HAVING ADDED AN ADDITIONAL BLOODY EXPERIENCE TO THOSE WHICH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED IN THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WISHES IT TO REJOIN THE RANKS

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OF ALL THOSE WHO WORK, HERE AND ON THE AFRICAN CONTINENT, TO CONDUCT THEIR DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERTY AND PEACE. END TEXT.
HARTMAN

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